

Children and Century Fund. The practical and sentimental move the world. The Century Fund has both. It is intensely practical as a business movement on the part of all who believe that men and women are the world's most valuable asset, that the highest good of men and women is moral and spiritual good, and that this good can only be attained through a knowledge and acceptance of the Saviour Christ, and who through various lines of work carried on by our Church are seeking to win men and women to that Christ. To such it is intensely practical, for it means more and better work along all these lines that are helped by it.

But it has sentiment, the highest, the purest, the best; the sentiment of gratitude for all the meritorious, temporal and spiritual, of a closing century, the sentiment of compassion like that which moved Christ when He saw the multitudes shepherdless, the sentiment of loyalty as we seek thereby to hasten His day of triumph, the sentiment of devotion and consecration as we think of a new coming century with all its possibilities, and determine, so far as we can, to fill it with the song of the world's redemption.

Some kinds of sentiment may be over wrought, this never. It is infinite in its grandeur, and the more it sways one's life, the larger and loftier does that life become. Moreover, it will specially appeal to the young, and in preparing for Children's Day collection for the Century Fund, there can be no better line of thought along which to lead them than the sentiment suggested by its theme.

Re-lighting an Old Lamp. One of the early seats of Christianity was the recently conquered Soudan. In the fourth century, Christian missionaries from Egypt visited Nubia, and Christianity took deep root and wide. Khartoum, where Gordon was killed, was for centuries a Christian city. And though the Moslem in the seventh century swept along Northern Africa compelling the choice of Koran, tribute, or the sword, he did not win his way to the far-up Nile. There Christianity flourished, and until comparatively recent times. Now, that Britain's power, the sword of the Lord and of Gideon, has opened the way, the Gospel will once more enter, with all the light and liberty that it brings. And it will enter to remain. The heathen world powers are passing away. No more will pagan or Moslem hordes overrun our world, but the dawning day will continue until earth shall rejoice in the full-orbed light of the Sun of Righteousness.

God in History. Not merely in past history but in that which is daily making. It is interesting to get fast hold of that fact and in the light of it to read the world's daily doings, and see how all is telling steadily to the one grand end, leading earth out to light and liberty step by step, until the highest is attained, the "free indeed." Sometimes error and wrong are so entrenched that the shock of war is needed, and He allows war, making the wrath of man to praise Him. But whether it be by strife of voice or pen or sword, by philanthropy or Commerce science or war, His chariot-wheels roll ever forward.

"Meekness, truth, and righteousness
In state ride prosperously."

And all the turmoil is but the jolting of those chariot-wheels over a way made rough by human sin and wrong. But the way is getting smoother. Arbitration and universal peace are winning a larger place in human thought. The Gospel, with all the good that follows in its train, is spreading. The world has more free men and fewer bonds on body, mind, and spirit, than ever before. Christ's kingdom, that kingdom which is righteousness and peace, is coming day by day. Happy they who live in such a time, who share its good and help on its grand consummation.

Something New for Spain. A meeting of Spanish Republicans on the 9th of August resolved that all religious orders should be expelled from Spain, on the ground that they absorbed too much of the nation's wealth without adequate return. The movement is not so much against the Church as against the orders of monks that swarm in such plenty and are the natural fruitage of Rome's teaching and sway. It is one more indication of the spread of the spirit of liberty. Not very long ago such action would have meant imprisonment or death. In Spain as elsewhere, the centuries of darkness, ignorance, and ecclesiastical tyranny are bringing forth their natural results of scepticism and atheism. Turning instinctively from the only kind of religious life and teaching they have ever known, having nothing better to turn to, men swing to the opposite pole and scoff at all religion, for they only know of it from their own experience. In France, in Italy, now in Spain, in some measure in Canada, this is coming true.

The only remedy is to give them a Christianity that will satisfy men's longing, that will commend itself by its fruits, to give them the Word of God. How loud the call to those who have that Word to send it where it is not. The leaves of that tree are for the healing of the nations.